



The National Security Working Group
Rep. Trent Franks, Working Group Chairman

Support a Permanent House Select Committee on Benghazi (Rep. Franks)

More than five month have passed since the deadly terrorist attacks on the U.S. consulate and annex in Benghazi, which took the lives of four Americans and injured untold others.

More than five months after the attack, the Obama Administration still does not have a single suspect in custody and many questions remain about the response to the attack. And in December, the Tunisians freed the only detained suspect despite objections from the FBI.

Thanks to certain Republican Senators, Sec. Panetta was forced to testify in February and we learned that President Obama was completely absent during the 8 hour period of the attack. He never consulted with Secretaries Clinton or Panetta to give them additional authority to deploy troops or planes to support the Americans under attack at the annex.

And now, Senator Graham has promised to hold up Mr. Brennan's nomination as CIA director until the White House turns over some items it has declined to provide, such as drone video of the attack and e-mails on talking points that falsely claimed the attack was a protest that got out of control.

Congress must commit to a more comprehensive and exhaustive review of the attack, as well as the Obama Administration's response during the first hours of the attack and the days and weeks after.

More than 30 of our colleagues have already cosponsored H. Res. 36, which was introduced by Frank Wolf and would create a temporary House Select Committee on the Terrorist Attack in Benghazi. The bill would use *existing* House resources to create a multi-jurisdictional select committee to fully investigate and report on this attack and the administration's questionable response.

Absent a House Select Committee, the American people will never learn the truth about why assistance was not deployed and why the White House talking points were altered after the attack. A thorough investigation of these processes is the very least we can offer the families who lost their loved ones in this attack against sovereign American soil. I urge you to join me in cosponsoring Mr. Wolf's legislation.

New Iran Nuclear Talks Sure to Yield Little Fruit (Rep. Fleming)

Here we go again. This week, a new round of talks is set to begin on Iran's nuclear program. Obama Administration officials expressed hope that this week's talks will remain cordial, with agreements to hold future talks in the Spring or Summer. Meanwhile, this past weekend, Iran announced that it had discovered new deposits of raw uranium and had identified sites for 16 more nuclear power stations. The Iranian regime has assured the international community that talks over its nuclear weapons program are sure to break down unless U.S. sanctions are suspended. Iran continues its free reign to test fire Shahab-3 missiles that have a strike range capable of reaching any city in Israel. It is time for the Obama Administration to acknowledge its hubris in thinking it can contain Iran through sanctions alone.

President Obama and Secretary Kerry should stop pretending that sanctions are working while publicly downplaying the benefits of a military strike. Instead, the Administration should bolster the credibility of its military threat. With the President's failure to stop pending sequestration cuts, the Navy has removed one of its two aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf, despite a DoD directive that no less than two carriers be present in the region. And this says nothing of the Administration's consideration of new negotiations for more unilateral nuclear reductions that would bring the deployed stockpile down to 300 warheads. The signal to Iran that the U.S. is unwilling to employ force allows Iran to continue to develop a nuclear capable arsenal and to deploy warships in the region. Additionally, it leaves Israel little leverage to pursue meaningful diplomatic tactics. Continued pursuit of toothless sanctions and failed negotiations without the threat of force ensures that Iran will be able to continue stonewalling the international community while simultaneously enriching uranium to the point of weapons-grade capability.

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